



# Rules of Registration, Data Flow and Genotyping

The first week of April 2024 brought the latest in genetic summaries for the dairy industry. Herd owners across the country and around the globe watch for the tri-annual evaluations with the thoughts of their upcoming matings in the forefront of their minds. Profitable, healthy, trouble-free and long-lived cows are traits Registered Jersey breeders aim to achieve.

As we all have witnessed over the past 15 years, modifications and adjustments are frequent in the fast-paced world of genetics. Data is always changing from weekly preliminaries, monthly genomics, and tri-annual genetic updates—information is being released continuously.

The American Jersey Cattle Association and other member organizations meet regularly to discuss the latest trends with genetics and how it affects data delivered to our customers. This has been a practice in place for many years through the AJCA board of directors and the Breed Improvement and Information Technology and Identification committees. Most recently an appointed committee discussed, evaluated, and presented the new Jersey Performance Index (JPI) and Jersey Udder Index in December 2023.

Breeders and producers across the nation and around the world can know the decisions made at the March 2024 AJCA Board meeting will help the breed move back more closely to the original herd book by working to eliminate the non-Jersey genes from pedigrees of sires and dams used to make A.I. sires.

At the board meeting steps were taken to change the rules of registration for males receiving a NAAB stud code. *Any bull born after March 31, 2025, assigned an NAAB code must be a minimum Generation Count {6} and a Breed Base Representation (BBR) of 100. Both his dam and sire must also have a BBR of 100. These changes go hand-in-hand with the requirement of any bull assigned a NAAB code must be genotyped along with the sire and dam.*

What does this mean for Jersey breeders? If you are planning to produce a bull for A.I., by June of this year, only males and females with a minimum Generation Count of 5 and a BBR of 100 should be used as parents for mating decisions.

Another step to move closer to eliminating the non-Jersey genetics from lists include a new female list in the online Green Book. The Top 500 JPI females with no JX animals in their pedigree can be found at <http://greenbook.usjersey>.



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com/CowsHeifers under the Top 500 Purebred Female section. If you are a user of Herdview through infoJersey, you will now find an option to sort for JX-free animals in your herd.

It remains important to track the identification of Jersey genetics throughout the industry. The latest steps taken by leadership will continue to provide a profitable bottom line.

## Importance of Data Flow

One of the most important items to recognize in the accuracy of genetic evaluations is data flow. The industry continues to evolve with new technologies, robotics, and on-farm software that present challenges for data reaching the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB). Data needs to continue to come in for accurate genetic evaluations to be produced.

Genetic evaluations are the outcome of decades of cooperation across the different sectors of the U.S. dairy industry. The starting point is reliable data recorded by herd owners, day after day, year after year. After that, it is all about data flow, from the farm to dairy records providers and dairy records processing centers (DRPCs), then on to the CDCB database so that research and development work can proceed by geneticists at CDCB as well as scientists at the Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory (AGIL). Your herd data impacts and sets the bar for all genetic evaluations because of the information tracked.

*“Dairy producers are the core of all these organizations, so cooperation means helping yourself.” Dr. Duane Norman*

## Put Your Plan in Place

With the advent of genomics in 2009, we gained a more powerful, easy-to-use tool that assists in more accurate information. We have found the good, the bad, and the ugly with this science—all helping to make our breed pedigrees more accurate and offering options for mating decisions. For the cost of a genotype, you can be assured your pedigree records are complete and accurate. It’s a good investment. There is no overstating how important correct ID and known pedigrees are for every Jersey business. Breed improvement through more effective selection, better mating decisions and inbreeding management, plus increasing the number of usable records for genetic evaluations and the effective Reliability of all evaluations stems from this data.

Contact your AJCA area representative to find which AJCA program best suits your needs to contribute to the genetic evaluations.